

ARC withdrawal from the Contract Letting Process for the Wales and Borders Rail Service and South Wales Metro

It is with great sadness that I am writing to you, as one of the key stakeholders in the Wales and Borders region, who has kindly engaged with us during the consultation process for the above rail contract.

Following the liquidation of Carillion PLC on Monday 15 January, Abellio Rail Cymru (ARC) has taken the decision to withdraw from the Contract Letting Process for the Wales and Borders Rail Service and South Wales Metro competition.

We were aware that Carillion Rail was being sold by the official receiver and hopeful that our partner AECOM would have secured the purchase. Yesterday's announcement that Carillion Rail contracts were being awarded to other purchasers meant that our bid could no longer be considered by TfW.

ARC has taken this decision against a background of a bid to which we remain very committed for both Core Valley Lines and the wider Wales and Cross Border services. We believe that it meets the needs of the Welsh Government, customers and stakeholders across the wider Wales and Borders network. We also believe that it would have given the people of Wales and Borders a rail service that it deserves and been a driver of economic growth.

We are naturally very disappointed to be leaving the competition but would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your input and support during the bidding process. Your comments, suggestions and advice, have at all times, been invaluable. Enabling us to understand in greater detail the hopes and aspirations of those represented by you and your organisations.

I know that Sian and Alex have enjoyed working with you during this process and are happy to respond to any further queries or questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact them and they will help in whatever way they can.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and those you represent every success in the future.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Julian Edwards
Deputy Managing Director and Business Development Director, Abellio UK